

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 TRSE-00 AF-08  
/093 W

-----040741Z 048344 /17

R 011242Z APR 77 ZDK CITE NUMEROUS SVC'S  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5538  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
THE HAGUE 190  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 2310

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: IS, PLO, PFOR, XG  
SUBJECT: JOURNALIST TELLS OF CONTACTS AT PNC

REF: CAIRO 5263 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: A JOURNALIST WHO MET A WIDE-RANGE OF THE PLO  
LEADERSHIP AT THE PNC, AND WHO WILL CONTINUE HIS CONTACTS  
IN BEIRUT SHORTLY, FINDS ONLY TACTICAL DIFFERENCES  
AMONG THE PALESTINIANS. THE "MODERATES" DO NOT INTEND  
TO ABANDON THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ISRAEL, EVEN IF A  
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WEST BANK/GAZA STATE IS ESTABLISHED. THE PALESTINIANS  
DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE A GENEVA CONFERENCE IN 1977,  
BUT ARAFAT RECEIVED AUTHORITY FROM THE PNC TO DECIDE  
ON NEGOTIATIONS. THE JOURNALIST HAS BRIEFED IS-  
RAELI MFA OFFICIALS AND REPORTEDLY WILL MEET ALLON  
IN BRUSSELS IN SEVERAL WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE JOURNALIST REFERRED TO IN CAIRO 5263 IS JAMES M. DORSEY, FOREIGN EDITOR OF CHRISTIAN PRESS FOUNDATION IN THE NETHERLANDS (TROUW, DE ROTTERDAMMER, NIEUWE HAAGSE COURANT, NIEUWE LEIDSE COURANT AND DORDTS DAGBLAD) AND SOMETIME FREELANCE WRITER FOR ISRAELI MAGAZINE OF DOVISH PERSUASION, "NEW OUTLOOK." DORSEY CALLED AT THE EMBASSY MARCH 31 AND TOLD US HE LIVED IN ISRAEL FOR SOME TIME, BUT DOES NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF AS AN ISRAELI. HE IS CONCERNED LEST IDENTIFICATION AS SUCH RUIN HIS ARAB-PALESTINIAN CONTACTS IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE. HE WAS BORN IN THE U.S. AND HAS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, BUT WENT ABROAD AT AN EARLY AGE AND NOW IS A NETHERLANDS RESIDENT; HIS WIFE, DARIYA (PHONETIC) IS DUTCH. DORSEY PREFERS TO BE IDENTIFIED AS A DUTCH JOURNALIST. HE IS ABOUT 30 YEARS OLD.

2. DORSEY LEAVES ISRAEL SHORTLY AND IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN BEIRUT SUNDAY APRIL 3, WHERE HE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AT LENGTH WITH ARAFAT, HABBASH, HAWATMEH, JIBRIL, ABU MAZIN, SABRI JIRYIS, ET AL. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, AND CAN BE CONTACTED AT THE COMMODORE HOTEL. HE SAID HE HAS MET MANY PLO FIGURES IN BEIRUT ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

3. DORSEY SAID THAT WHILE COVERING THE PNC IN CAIRO, HE WAS GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT BY THE PLO LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS AND BACKGROUNDEERS. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SAID HE IS A GOOD FRIEND OF SAID HAMMAMI (PLO REP IN LONDON) AND HAD ASKED HIM FOR ASSISTANCE TO MEET WITH PLO FIGURES IN CAIRO, BUT HE HAD HAD NO IDEA THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO GO AS FAR AS THEY DID: WITH HAMMAMI AS TRANSLATOR, DORSEY MET WITH NAIF HAWATMEH; ZUHAYR MOHSIN; ABU MAZIN; ABU MAZAR; HANI AL-HASSAN; RIBHI AWAD; BASSAM ABU SHARAF; NESSIF AWAD; TAYSIR KUBBAH; ISSAM SARTAWI; NEBBI AL-SHATHA; ABU DAOUD; HAMZA AL-NATSHI; AND EZMINE QALAQA (SOME NAMES PHONETIC). HE WAS GIVEN A CHOICE BETWEEN A SHORT MEETING WITH ARAFAT IN CAIRO OR A LONGER ONE IN BEIRUT, AND CHOSE THE LATTER.

4. IN MOST OF THE MEETINGS, DORSEY WAS INTRODUCED TO HIS INTERLOCUTORS AS A WRITER FOR "NEW OUTLOOK." MANY OF THE DISCUSSIONS WERE OFF THE RECORD, BUT HAWATMEH IN PARTICULAR WANTED HIM TO PUBLISH AN ARTICLE DIRECTLY IN "NEW OUTLOOK" (I.E., WITHOUT FIRST PUBLISHING IT IN A DUTCH PAPER), AND TALKED

TO HIM FOR SIX OR SEVEN HOURS. DORSEY ALSO PALNS  
TO QUOTE ZUHAYR MOHSIN AND HANI AL-HASSAN. (WE  
WILL POUCH COPIES OF "NEW OUTLOOK" ARTICLES AS THEY  
APPEAR). DORSEY'S OBSERVATIONS ON HIS CAIRO CON-  
VERSATIONS FOLLOW.

5. DORSEY DIVIDED THE PLO INTO TWO GROUPS, THOSE  
WHO SUPPORTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WEST BANK/GAZA  
MINI-STATE, AND THOSE WHO THOUGHT SUCH A STATE WOULD  
NOT BE WORTH THE TROUBLE. THE FORMER INTENDED TO USE  
THEIR MINI-STATE AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR LARGER DESIGNS,  
PARTICULARLY AGAINST ISRAEL, AND THE LATTER PRE-  
FERRED THAT PRESENT PALESTINIAN EFFORTS BE DEVOTED  
TO CHANGING THE "PRESENT BALANCE OF POWER" IN THE

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 TRSY-02 AF-08  
/095 W

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R 011242Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 2310

ARAB WORLD BY UPSETTING CERTAIN ARAB REGIMES.  
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HAWATMEH, DORSEY HAD MET

NO ONE WHOM HE WOULD CALL "MODERATE" IN THE SENSE OF BEING WILLING TO ABANDON THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ISRAEL AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINI-STATE. JUDGING FROM WHAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD, DORSEY SAID, INTRA-PALESTINIAN DIFFERENCES WERE IN FACT ONLY TACTICAL.

6. THE PALESTINIANS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A GENEVA CONFERENCE IN 1977, DORSEY SAID, THEY  
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ALSO THINK IT VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE ARAB STATES COULD OR WOULD ENGAGE IN COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT THE PLO. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT "A SQUEEZE" FROM THE ARAB STATES TO FORCE THEM TO MAKE A DEAL WITH ISRAEL.

7. DORSEY BELIEVES THAT ARAFAT WOULD BE FORCED TO PLAY HIS "RECOGNITION CARD" IF THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO INVITE HIM TO GENEVA.

8. DORSEY BELIEVED THAT PARTICIPATION AT THE PNC BY A WEST BANK DELEGATION WOULD IN FACT HAVE HAD A MODERATING INFLUENCE. WHEN THE "MODERATE" CABLE FROM WEST BANKERS WAS READ OUT TO THE CONGRESS, DELEGATES WERE CHAGRINED AT ITS SUGGESTION OF PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA (SIC). (COMMENT: WE STILL HAVE OUR DOUBTS OVER WHO WOULD HAVE CONVERTED WHOM). ON THE OTHER HAND, DORSEY'S WEST BANK CONTACTS PRIVATELY HAVE TOLD HIM THAT THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED AT THE PNC'S LACK OF MODERATION.

9. ZUHAYR MOHSIN SEEMED AN ODD MAN OUT. WHEN JUMBLATT'S MURDER WAS ANNOUNCED, AND ARAFAT WAS IN TEARS AND COULD NOT SPEAK, RIBHI AWAD GRABBED THE STAGE AND POINTING TO MOHSIN EXCLAIMED, "PERHAPS THE MURDERERS ARE AMONG US." IN HIS PRIVATE CONVERSATION, MOHSIN TOLD DORSEY THAT "THERE IS NO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE...EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISPOSING OF ISRAEL. THE MINUTE THAT'S DONE, SYRIA, LEBANON, JORDAN AND PALESTINE SHOULD BECOME ONE BIG SYRIA."

10. DORSEY FOUND ABU MAZIN CONTRADICTIONARY, SAYING THAT HE WAS WILLING TO COMPROMISE WITH A ZIONIST STATE ("ZIONISM IS A LIBERATION MOVEMENT") BUT ALSO PUSHING A PLAN TO FINANCE THE RESETTLEMENT OF  
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ORIENTAL ISRAELIS IN THEIR ARAB COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN. ABU MAZIN STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO BE QUOTED. DORSEY WAS UNABLE TO EVALUATE ABU MAZIN'S STRENGTH WITHIN THE PLO, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT IT DEPENDED DIRECTLY ON ARAFAT. HE ADDED THAT ABU MAZIN'S MARCH 15 ADDRESS TO THE CONGRESS HAD A "SALUTORY" EFFECT ON THE DELEGATES--IT SEEMED TO PERSUADE THE MAJORITY OF THEM OF THE BENEFIT OF CONTINUED CONTACTS WITH "PROGRESSIVE" ISRAELIS.

11. AGAINST A FIRMED-UP DOCTRINAL LINE WHICH EMERGED FROM THE PNC, ARAFAT NOW HAS BLANKET AUTHORITY FOR THE ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, (TO DECIDE ON ENGAGING THE PLO IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS) SAID DORSEY, SOMETHING WHICH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS DENIED BY THE 1974 PNC. NONETHELESS, HE WAS LOATHE TO PREDICT WHAT THE REJECTIONISTS MIGHT DO SHOULD ARAFAT TRY TO USE HIS AUTHORITY.

12. WHILE IN ISRAEL, DORSEY SAID, HE HAS MET WITH MFA CONTACTS. IN ADDITION, HE WILL SEE FM ALLON IN BRUSSELS IN SEVERAL WEEKS. EMBOFF HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT DORSEY HAS PROBABLY BRIEFED ISRAELI OFFICIALS RE HIS PLO CONTACTS ON EARLIER OCCASIONS AS WELL.

13. FOR THE HAGUE AND BRUSSELS: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE ON DORSEY'S JOURNALISTIC REPUTATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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